A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 31. 1708.

AND shall I tell you some News now about *Scotland*, for I know you love new Stories? — And the first I shall present with, is, that at *Edinburgh* they have hang'd two Men, and banish'd a third, for a Crime that was neither Treason, Murther, Piracy, Felony, Burglary, Rape, Sodomy, Clipping, Coining, or any of the Sorts for which Men are usually put to Death in our Country.

O necessary Severity! Were a Law but made for the like in *England*, what Havock would it make among us? These Men were hang'd for a trifling Thing, we make nothing of, call'd *Forgery*.

Three Things Men die for in *Scotland*, which in *England* they make nothing of; nay, Two of them they commit in the Face of the Sun, boast of it, and insult others with it, namely *Adultery* and *Atheism*; about the Year 93, an obstinate Atheist was executed for openly denying GOD, his Name was *Aikenhead*, and at the very Gallows he persisted in it, and pretended to defie his Maker, and his Power, and Providence. But as it fares with all that pretend to that inconsistent and incongruous Wickedness, his Eyes open'd just before they were to be shut for ever, and he dy'd in the utmost Confusion; a terrible Spectacle and Example to all the wretched Crew of Miserables, who which the Fool say in their Hearts there is no GOD.

Abour

About two Year after, two Men and a Woman made their Exit by the Halter at the Croſs of *Edinburgh*, for that moſt faſhionable Crime of Adultery— Were all our Adulterers to go out of the World that way, we ſhould make ſad Breaches in Families, whoſe Characters ſeem now as white and fair as much honeſter People.

Here, how many open Adulterers defie our Laws, or, rather defie us for Want of Law; in this Nation Men may deny GOD, inſult their Neighbours, break in upon Marriage-Vows, defile the Bed, debauch the Vertuous, delude the Simple, and rage in unreſtrain'd Luſts, while the Silent Law puts neither Fetters upon the Crime, nor upon the Criminal; Adultery, as a Trifle not worth Notice, paſſes without a Cenſure; Families are blended together between the Vile and the Vertuous, and Men mingle the Clean and the Unclean together; when they have debauch'd the Blood, and made the Legal Off-ſpring in a manner ſpurious, or at beſt doubtful, they revel upon the Honour of the Perſon abuſed, and boaſt of the Crime oftner than they commit it.

Theſe are Truths too plain to be deny'd, too common not for every Body to know, and too melancholly not to move our juſt Concern— But to deſcend from them to the Caſe in hand, the Point of Forgery I mean.

Two Men hang'd in the Streets of *Edinburgh* for Forgery, and the Third baniſh'd! hang'd for Forgery! Remember that, *Gentlemen Hangers on to the Law*, that counterfeit Deeds, Mortgages, Wills, Letters of Attorney, *&c.* every Day, and ſend wealthy Families ruin'd and miſerable to the Fleet and Queen's-Bench for Shelter; Remember it, and have a care how you go on, leſt you open our Eyes here, and make us ſenſible of the Want of ſuch a Law among us.

What is the Reaſon that none of our Petty-Foggers, Projectors, Affidavit-Men, Hackney-Bail, Street-Sollicitors, and ſuchlike People, go to *Scotland*; Wretches, of whom a little Army lurks about this Town, and live like Locuſts upon the innocent Men's Bleſſings, that to deliver a Man out of one Priſon, carry him into two, that oppreſs the Debtor to ſave him from his Creditor, that ruin more Families than the Commiſſions of Bankrupt, and embarraſs the poor Client in a thouſand Difficulties, to extricate him out of one? What is the Reaſon none of theſe People go to *Scotland*? — O Gentlemen, the Reaſon is plain; Drunkards have gone there for good Claret, and Merchants lately for good Brandy; but R——s always keep as far as poſſible from the Scent of the Gallows; in *Scotland* Men are hang'd for Forgery, baniſh'd for Forgery; what ſhould ſuch Men as we talk of go there for?

O were there but due Debates once of this Matter in the *Houſe* of *Commons*, could it be but juſtly repreſented to them, what Swarms of theſe Vermine infect this Town, what Ruins and Marks of their voracious Dealings are to be ſeen in ſome of our beſt Families in *England*? And could they but ſee how free *Scotland* is of ſuch People, how rare it is to find any thing of this Nature practiſed there, how ill it generally ſucceeds, and how ſeverely it is puniſh'd there, and that ſuch a Trifle as the Gallows is the effectual Remedy, a meer Specifick for the Diſtemper; they would certainly beſtow that ſo uſeful, ſo beneficial, and ſo much wanted Remedy upon us, to make us once happy, in a Deliverance which could never yet be obtain'd, and which we have ſo long wanted.

Have we a great many Gentlemen, and ſome of good Families and Fortunes, Merchants and Dealers of large Credit and great Buſineſs, who now languiſh in Mints, Fleets, Rules and other Places of Protection; and is it grown a Scandal upon the Nation to have them there? Pray, how came they thither, or more particularly, what has reduc'd them there to a Kind of Impoſſibility of getting out again? Ask them, Gentlemen, if the Sort of People, I am ſpeaking of, has not lock'd two thirds of them up there for their Lives without Remedy, but by an Act of Grace, under Pretence of making up their Affairs, or forcing their way out, picking their Pockets of the poor Remainder of their diſtreſs'd Fortunes, and ſo that

that which at firſt might have made their Peace with their Creditors, who being exaſperated by their ſtanding off, and forcing them to Law, at laſt prove inexorable and unmerciful.

O for a Gallows for ſome of theſe People! a little Hanging would be a Thunder Clap, that would diſperſe the Cloud of them that hovers about us; and in *Scotland* ye have the Example, may it be follow'd here with equal Succeſs.

MISCELLANEA.

The Remainder of the Anſwers, &c. which was promis'd in our Laſt, is as follows.

Edinburgh, 13 *March*, 1708.

THE Magiſtrates having conſider'd the Libel exhibited to them by their Procr. Fiſcal againſt Mr. *Andrew Cant*, and others Defenders, with the Laws and Orders whereupon the ſame is founded, as alſo the Anſwers made thereto by the ſaid Defenders with the hail Inſtructions thereof. They repel the Dilatory Defences made by the ſaid Defenders in Reſpect of the known Cuſtom within Burgh, and the Subject and Laws libell'd; as alſo they repel all the other Defences proponed for the Defenders, and find that ſince they have not quallified themſelves to the Government by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and ſubſcribing the ſame with the Aſſurance, or have not pray'd for her Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, *nominatim*, either of thoſe both Relevant, and proven to inſer the Cruelſome of the Libel, Therefore decerns and ordains the ſaid Defenders and every one of them to deſiſt from keeping any Meeting-Houſes within the City of *Edinburgh*, *Leith* and *Canongate*, and the other Suburbs and Liberties thereof, and from preaching or exerciſing any Part of the Miniſterial Function within the ſame in all time coming, under the Pain of Impriſonment, and to find Caution for that Effect betwixt and the 30*th* Day of *March* inſtant; and in the mean time decerns and ordains their Meeting-Houſes to be forthwith ſhut up; and farther, becauſe Mr. *George Grayhame* one of the Defenders hath confeſs'd his high Contempt, that reading the *Engliſh* Service, when he came to the Prayers for her Majeſty Queen *ANNE*, he paſt over and omitted the ſame. Therefore the Magiſtrates decern and ordain him to be carry'd immediately Priſoner to the Tolbooth of *Edinburgh*, therein to remain until the Lords of her Majeſty's Privy Council ſhall inflict on him ſuch further Puniſhment as they ſhall think meet, for which Effect the Magiſtrates remit his Caſe to the ſaid Lords as ſaid is.

16 *July*, 1708.

Mr. *Andrew Cant*, Mr. *William Abercrombe*, Mr. *Robert Skeen*, Mr. *Robert Cheyne*, Mr. *David Friebarn*, Mr. *John Winzet*, Mr. *Alexander Guthrie*, Mr. *David Rankeir*, Mr. *James Walker*, Mr. *Robert Moncrief*, Miniſters preſent, and examin'd anent their exerciſing the Miniſterial Function, or any Part thereof ſince the 13*th* Day of *March* laſt, when they were ſentenc'd not to exerciſe any Part of the ſaid Function, without quallifying themſelves by taking the Oaths, &c. they all acknowledg'd, they had exerciſed Part of the Miniſterial Function ſince that time. Therefore the Magiſtrates ordained the ſaid Defenders to attend the Morrow againſt 10 of the Clock Forenoon.

17 *July*, 1708.

Mr. *Andrew Cant*, Mr. *William Abercrombe*, Mr. *David Rankeir*, Mr. *Alexander Guthrie*, and Mr. *John Winzet*, Defenders preſent, and interrogate, whether or not they had given Obedience to the Sentence pronounced againſt them the 13*th* Day of *March* laſt, by deſiſting from exerciſing the Miniſterial Function within the Liberties of the Town of *Edinburgh*. To which they anſwer'd, that they had deſiſted for ſome time

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ſince that Sentence, but not altogether, it being Matter of Conſcience to them and not of Choice; which being conſider'd by the Magiſtrates, they decerned and ordain'd the ſaid Mr. *Andrew Cant*, Mr. *William Abercrombe*, Mr. *David Rankeir*, Mr. *Alexander Guthrie*, and M. *John Winzet*, Defenders, to be inſtantly carry'd to Priſon, there to remain until they obtemper the ſaid Sentence pronounced againſt them the 13 Day of *March* laſt.

Sa. M'clellan, Provoſt.
Geo. Warrender, *Jo. Duncan*, *Jo. Campbell*, *Arch. Cockburne* } Bailies.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Theſe are to give Notice,

THat *MARY KIRLEUS*, the Widow of *JOHN KIRLEUS*, Son of Dr. *THO. KIRLEUS*, a Sworn-Phyſician, in Ordinary to King *Charles* II. Sells (rightly prepar'd) his Famous Drink and Pills; experienc'd above 50 Years (by an uncommon Method) to cure all Ulcers, ſores, Scabs, Itch, Scurf, Scurvies, Leproſies, Running of the Reins, and the moſt inveterate VENEREAL Diſeaſe, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or deſtructive Mercurial Preparations: Theſe incomparable Medicines need no Words to expreſs their Virtues; the many miſerable Ones that have been happily cured, after given over by others, ſufficiently recommend them as the moſt Sovereign Remedy in the World againſt all ſuch Malignities: She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compaſſion to the Diſtreſſed, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 *s.* the Quart, the Pill 1 *s.* the Box with Directions, and Advice *Gratis*. *NOTE*, The Patient may be effectually cur'd by ſending his Grief in Writing.

✝✝✝ *She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand-Court, over againſt great Turnſtile in Holborn.*

BARTLETT's Inventions for the Cure of Ruptures, which have gain'd ſo Univerſal Eſteem, are now, yet farther Improv'd to ſo great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring Truſſes of the largeſt Size, ſeldom Exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the ſmalleſt rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are ſo well adapted to the ſhapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary eaſy even to Infants of a Day Old, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bigneſs ſoever. Alſo divers Inſtruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlet at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Preſcot Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

NOTE, He forges and finiſhes his Truſſes himſelf, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.

☞ I *Thomas Pritchard*, at the *Saracens-Head* in *Little Carter Lane*, near St. *Paul's*, *London*, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. *Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*, *London*, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever ſince.

This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonſtreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at laſt I apply'd my ſelf to the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Truſſes and Rupture Spirits, with the Bleſſing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever ſince, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son *P. Bartlett* lives at the ſame Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the ſame Buſineſs, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Inſtructed therein.